



City of Gaithersburg Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Celebrate July 4th with Week-Long Virtual #StayHomeSummerFest in Gaithersburg

Gaithersburg, MD (June 29, 2020) Celebrate America's independence while you're staying safer at home with the City of Gaithersburg's week-long virtual SummerFest. Patriotic-themed arts and crafts, cooking demonstrations, kid's activities, theater performances, and more will be shared on social media June 29 through July 4. The week will end with a bang on July 4th with a video montage of past fireworks displays that can be viewed from the comfort and safety of your own home. Follow our social media accounts throughout the celebration [here](#).

Kentlands Mansion

- Learn how to make a patriotic-themed centerpiece as Kentlands Mansion shares a Do-It-Yourself craft video. Using mason jars and red, white and blue paint, you'll be able to create a centerpiece that is easy, budget friendly and super cute for July 4th.

Casey Community Center

- Let's Cook @Casey will guide you through a strawberry shortcake recipe with Chef Carolyn Crow.
- Bring a story to life by reading aloud, learning new crafts, and creating delicious snacks at home with our Tasty Books program. "Red, White, and Boom" will have you travel across the country for a city parade, a beach picnic, and fireworks in the park in this poetic celebration of the many cultures and traditions that make America's birthday BOOM!

Arts Barn

- Watch a special video performance of "Dolley Madison, Presidentress," an original, one-woman play about Dolley Madison, wife of James Madison, starring award-winning actress Mara Bayewitz, originally presented at the Arts Barn in 2015. Dolley was a woman who experienced the highs and lows of life and persevered through her humor, intelligence, and strength. Presented in partnership with Sandy Spring Theatre Group and Best Medicine Rep, Bayewitz treats the audience to Dolley's life story with humor, warmth, and Dolley's particular view of American history.
- Watch a special video performance of "Honest Abe: The Wit and Wisdom of Abraham Lincoln," an original, one-man play about the 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, starring AACT-award-winning actor, Bill Spitz. It was also presented at the Arts Barn in 2015. "Honest Abe" takes place at a speaking engagement in late 1863, where the President talks about the important events of his life with insight,

wit, and humor. Presented in partnership with Sandy Spring Theatre Group, the play is a rare glimpse into the man whose mission was to reunite the nation and end slavery.

- Get crafting with a fireworks mini-art lesson for both kids and adults. Learn fun techniques using paint and chalk pastels. Text instructions and a supply list will be in the Notes section of the Arts on the Green [Facebook page](#).

Community Museum

- Learn Star-Spangled Banner facts with Tim Grove, author of *Star-Spangled: The Story of a Flag, a Battle, and the American Anthem*.
- Do you have an American Flag that needs to be retired? Community Museum Program Coordinator Karen Lottes demonstrates the proper protocol for disposal.

Benjamin Gaither Center

- Enjoy a “Happy July 4th” video montage from the Benjamin Gaither Center.

Parks, Recreation and Culture

- Lifeguard Lily wishes all our aquatics family a happy July 4th.
- Get moving with a virtual fitness class teaser with a July 4th twist.

Fireworks Spectacular

- On July 4th, hear a message from our Mayor, join in the Pledge of Allegiance, and then enjoy a video montage of past fireworks displays on our City’s [YouTube channel](#) and [Facebook page](#).

Due to the continuing public health crisis, the City is offering many virtual summer recreation classes in addition to a selection of in-person outdoor classes, camps and programs. Explore our virtual offerings and register online [here](#). Explore all of our recreation class, camp and programming offerings at gaithersburgmd.gov/recxpress. For more information, call 301-258-6350.

[Phase 2](#) reopenings, which include the Water Park, Skate Park, Miniature Golf, Farmers Markets, and more, will begin the week of July 6. City updates are made on the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov and on [Facebook](#) and Twitter [@GburgMD](#).

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